

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Upon careful and complete consideration of the Office Action dated June 20, 2006, applicants have amended the claims which, when considered in conjunction with the comments herein below, are deemed to place the present application into condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully solicited.

The Office Action initially noted that the previously issued rejections had been withdrawn based on applicants filed reply. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for her reconsideration of the issues based on the filed arguments. Nevertheless, the present Office Action rejected claims 1-8 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the English translation of WO 02/41826. The Office Action further rejected claims 1-14 and 19-21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,743,946 to Aoki et al. (hereinafter referred to as “Aoki et al.”) in view of the English translation of WO 02/41826.

Before addressing the above-indicated rejections, it is noted that the present invention, as amended and now claimed in claim 1, is directed to an aqueous colloidal gold solution comprising an aqueous medium and: gold particles in colloidal form; a compound having a polar tertiary amino group conjugated via a hydrophobic aromatic residue with a weaker alkaline group which can also be a part of the aromatic residue;

and a stabilizer comprising a mercapto group (-SH) and an acidic group, wherein the aqueous colloidal gold solution has a gold content of 8 to 10%.

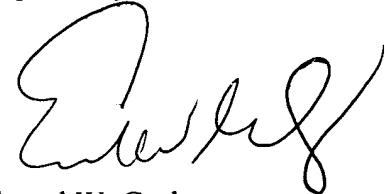
The support for this amendment can be found in the subject specification, specifically in the last paragraph on page 10. Here it is disclosed that it was “surprisingly found that the ink according to the invention does not require, in particular with a relatively high gold content of 8 to 10% by weight, any special measures to adjust the surface tension and can be universally used on all kinds of papers, including glazed paper.”

Simply stated, and as taught by the subject disclosure, such a high gold content is quite unusual. As such, it is not surprising that neither WO 02/41826 nor Aoki et al. teach, disclose or suggest such a high gold content. As indicated by the quoted passage above, the use of the unusual high gold content in accordance with the present invention results in particular advantages, i.e. no necessity of special measures to adjust the surface tension and universal usability on all kinds of paper, including glazed paper.

Based on the distinctions and arguments set forth above, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on WO 02/41826, as well as Aoki et al. in view of WO 02/41826 be withdrawn.

Finally, it is further submitted that all the claims in the application as presently submitted contain patentable subject matter and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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